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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,878	04/17/2000	Richard W. Heiden	F-118	1348
919	7590	08/19/2004	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			ELISCA, PIERRE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/550,878

Applicant(s)

HEIDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 4/3/2003.
2. Claims 24-44 are remained.

NOTE

3. Applicant failed to claim a **postage** printing system, instead Applicant's claimed a data center. Therefore, Applicant is advised to amend claims 24-30 accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371⁹ of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by O'Brien et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,321,210).

As per claim 24, O'Brien discloses a method for selective distribution of discount coupons, comprising:

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a printing system including a printer for printing on an item intended for a recipient (**this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 2, lines 13-57, col 4, lines 7-67**);

a data center in operation communication with the printing system, the printing system being located remotely from the data center, the data center including a plurality of advertiser accounts, each of the plurality of advertiser accounts including respective message data representative of a message (**this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 4, lines 7-67, col 5, lines 13-67**);

a control system in operative communication with the data center and the printing system for (**this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67**);

obtaining recipient information (**this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67**); and

using the recipient information to identify a subset of messages available for printing on the item (**this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67**).

As per claims 25, 26, O'Brien discloses the claimed limitation, wherein the control system is for receiving from a user an indication of a selected message from the subset of messages that the user authorizes for printing (this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67).

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As per claims 27, 28, 29, 30 O'Brien discloses the claimed limitation, wherein each of the plurality of advertiser accounts further includes restriction data **(this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67);** and

the control system is further for using the recipient information in combination with the restriction data from the plurality of advertiser accounts to identify the subset of messages available for printing **(this limitation is disclosed by O'Brien in the abstract, col 6, lines 5-67, col 8, lines 10-67).**

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Primary Patent Examiner

August 08, 2004